

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1011
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 16248

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFPR, EG
SUBJECT: SADAT MEETING WITH CODEL LEGGETT

TEL AVIV AND JERUSALEM FOR ASST SECRETARY SAUNDERS

SUMMARY: SADAT TELLS CODEL LEGGETT HE REMAINS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE PEACE INITIATIVE BUT ISRAELIS MUST SHOW RECIPROCAL SPIRIT. SADAT REITERATES WEST BANK SHOULD BE ISRAELIS HAD AGREED EGYPT AND JORDAN WOULD SIT DOWN WITH THEM AND DISCUSS PEACE AND SECURITY. WEIZMAN HAD RECENTLY ASKED TO MEET GAMASY, BUT WITH NOTHING NEW SO HE WILL NOT BE RECEIVED. SADAT URGED U.S. TO REASSESS ITS POLICY WITH REGARD TO ARMS ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA AND LOOK CLOSELY AT THREAT OF SOVIET INTERVENTION. IN OGADEN, U.S. SHOULD FIND WAYS TOGETHER WITH SAUDIS OF SUPPORTING SOMALIA WITH ECONOMIC MILITARY ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT SADAT MET WITH CONGRESSMEN ROBERT LEGGETT AND ROBERT DUNCAN FOR ONE HOUR JULY 1 IN ALEXANDRIA. VP MUBARAK, CODEL AIDES AND AMBASSADOR ATTENDED. MR. DUNCAN COMMENTED ON PRESIDENT'S RECENT VISIT TO U.S. SAYING IT HAD HAD "VERY USEFUL" EFFECT ON RELATIONS WITH U.S. SADAT
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SAID HE HAD LEFT CAIRO IN "DISCOURAGED" FRAME OF MIND BUT AS RESULT OF CLOSE DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AT CAMP DAVID HE HAD REGAINED DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE PEACE INITIATIVE. DUNCAN SAID TRIP HAD BROADENED UNDERSTANDING IN U.S. AND CONGRESS. PRESIDENT AGREED, ADDING RECENT SENATE ACTION ON PLANE SALE TO EGYPT WAS TRULY "REVOLUTIONARY" AND REFLECTED "NEW UNDERSTANDING" ON PART OF U.S.

PEOPLE AND CONGRESS.

2. MR. DUNCAN SAID SADAT'S INFLUENCE IN U.S. WAS STRONG BUT WANTED TO ADD ONE "CAVEAT" THAT EFFECT OF LAST FEW WEEKS (REFERRING TO REFERENDUM AND AFTERMATH) COULD ERODE PRESIDENT'S IMAGE. SADAT COUNTERED THAT NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN TO DEMOCRACY IN EGYPT AND, INDEED, SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY WAS GAINING MOMENTUM. HOWEVER, EGYPT WAS EXPERIENCING "DIFFERENT" SITUATION. RECENT ACTIONS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST SPECIFIC GROUPS* WAFDISTS, WHOSE CORRUPTION HAD LED TO REVOLUTION 26 YEARS AGO AND WHO, AFTER HE HAD ALLOWED THEM TO REORGANIZE, SPREAD "CORRUPTION" AND "DOUBT" CAMPAIGNS. SECOND GROUP WAS COMMUNISTS WHO IN JANUARY 1977 HAD "TRIED TO BURN CAIRO DOWN". THIRD GROUP WAS THOSE WHO DAMAGED DIGNITY OF EGYPT BY REFERRING TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS, DICTATORSHIP AND THE LIKE. AS RESULT, "I HAD TO GO TO THE PEOPLE" WITH REFERENDUM. SADAT ASKED HOW CONGRESS WOULD VIEW SITUATION IN WHICH U.S. JOURNALISTS WROTE AND WERE PAID FOR DELIBERATELY DISTORTED AND CRITICAL ARTICLES ABOUT THE U.S. FOR RUSSIAN NEWSPAPERS, ALL THE WHILE ENJOYING FREEDOM. MR. DUNCAN REFERRED TO RECENT U.S. COURT CASES ON NAZIS AND FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, SAID HE UNDERSTOOD SADAT'S PROBLEMS AND ASKED "MUST WE BE TOLERANT EVEN OF INTOLERANCE". SADAT STRESSED DEMOCRACY WAS IN NO DANGER, ADDING "EVERYTHING WILL BE UNDER LAW" AND "WE WILL HAVE NO CONCENTRATION CAMPS".
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3. MR. LEGGETT SAID HE HAD NOTICED ISRAEL CALLING FOR EGYPT TO DEVELOP NEW PROPOSAL. SADAT DEMURRED SAYING "ISRAELIS MUST DO THIS, I HAVE DONE MY SHARE". LEGGETT SAID SADAT'S INITIATIVE HAD BEEN MOST SIGNIFICANT STEP BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS IN PAST TEN YEARS BUT WONDERED WHAT MORE SHOULD BE DONE. PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT HE HAD OFFERED ISRAELIS "ACCEPTANCE, RECOGNITION AND SECURITY" BUT ISRAEL MUST GET INTO SAME SPIRIT. HE NOTED 150,000 ISRAELIS HAD RECENTLY SIGNED PEACE PETITION TO BEGIN.

4. MR. LEGGETT SUGGESTED SADAT SHOULD "FIRM HIS POSITION UP" WITH U.S. AND ATTEMPT TO RALLY U.S. SUPPORT FOR HIS POSITION. SADAT AGREED, SAYING HE IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT CARTER BUT THAT MUCH DEPENDED UPON BEGIN WHO IS "VERY NERVOUS" WHERE U.S. IS INVOLVED. BEGIN WANTED U.S. SUPPORT BUT NOT ITS ACTIVE ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS. MR. LEGGETT SAID BOTH PRESIDENTS CARTER AND SADAT HAD SUFFICIENT COURAGE TO BRING ABOUT PEACE BUT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO "TAILOR" POSITION SUFFICIENTLY TO GAIN SUPPORT OF SENATOR JAVITS AND OTHERS. WARMING TO JAVITS REFERENCE, SADAT SAID JAVITS' STATEMENT ON ISRAELI REPLY TO U.S. WAS

"SHOCK" TO HIM. MR. LEGGETT AGREED, ADDING THAT U.S. PUBLIC OPINION WAS CHANGING, BUT ISRAEL STILL HAD VERY STRONG SUPPORT IN U.S.

5. WEST BANK AND GAZA. MR. DUNCAN SAID KEY TO SETTLEMENT APPEARED TO BE GAZA AND WEST BANK AND ASKED FOR SADAT'S VIEWS. PRESIDENT SAID EGYPT WAS IN FAVOR OF PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION BUT ISRAELIS HAD BASIC FEAR OF THIS. SADAT WOULD HAVE WEST BANK RETURNED TO JORDAN AND GAZA TO EGYPT. ONCE ISRAEL HAD AGREED TO RETURN TO STATUS OF 1967, EGYPT AND ISRAEL COULD SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS SECURITY AND PEACE. VP MUBARAK HAD DISCUSSED THIS WITH HUSSEIN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 16248

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AND "HE WILL GO ALONG". MR. LEGGETT ASKED IF IT IS TO BE PALESTINE STATE HOW DO YOU KEEP PLO FROM CREATING "CANCER IN BOWELS OF ISRAEL. PRESIDENT SAID JORDANIAN/EGYPTIAN CONTROL WOULD PROVIDE NECESSARY SECURITY ON BASIS OF HIS SIX SECURITY POINTS. HE WAS HOPEFUL SECURITY ARRANGEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT WITHIN ONE YEAR, BUT NO MORE THAN FIVE IN LAST ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, ISRAELI SECURITY WAS BEST BASED UPON NORMAL RELATIONS, OPEN BORDERS AND GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY.

6. CODEL ASKED PRESIDENT WHAT HE THOUGHT OF BEGIN'S MOST RECENT MOVES. PRESIDENT SAID, BEGIN'S RECENT ACTIONS WERE "NOT HELPFUL". WEIZMAN HAD SENT RECENT MESSAGE TO GAMASY ASKING TO COME TO CAIRO, BUT PROPOSAL CONTAINED NOTHING MORE THAN WAS IN ISRAELI REPLY TO U.S. SADAT SAI

HE HAD A "SOFT SPOT" IN HIS HEART FOR WEIZMAN BUT "UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HOW COULD I LET HIM COME?"

7. RUSSIAN ENCIRCLEMENT - MR. DUNCAN ASKED FOR SADAT'S VIEWS ON EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, YEMENS AND SOMALIA AND ASKED WHETHER IN PRESIDENT'S OPINION RUSSIANS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTEMPTING TO ENCIRCLE EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA. SADAT AGREED, NOTING THAT THERE WERE TWO CIRCLES: ONE RUNNING THROUGH YEMEN, ETHIOPIA, CHAD AND LIBYA AND ANOTHER "LARGER" CIRCLE STARTING IN ANGOLA AND CROSSING AFRICA TO MOZAMBIQUE. BOTH WERE UNDER INFLUENCE AND INTERVENTION OF RUSSIA AND CUBANS. SADAT SAID WAR IN ERITREA WOULD CONTINUE "LIKE VIETNAM".

8. SOMALIA OGADEN - MR. LEGETT EXPLAINED THAT IN PART CODEL TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA WAS TO LOOK AT POSSIBILITY OF SAUDIS FINANCIALLY BACKING U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS PUBLIC WORKS OPERATION IN SOMALIA WHICH WOULD CONSTRUCT DAMS, PORT FACILITIES, HOSPITALS, ETC., WHICH WOULD HAVE GENERAL STABILIZING INFLUENCE IN HORN OF AFRICA. U.S. WANTED TO SUPPORT SOMALIA BUT NOT TO EXTENT IT WOULD LEAD TO CONTINUED STRIFE IN OGADEN. THEREFORE, U.S. WAS NOT IN POSITION TO PROVIDE MUCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE BUT COULD EXTEND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN CONCERT WITH SAUDIS. SADAT SAID HE COULD NOT AGREE TO U.S. POLICY WHICH DENIED ANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THOSE THREATENED BY RUSSIANS. HE ADDED, "IF THIS IS YOUR POLICY WE WILL LOSE AFRICA". IN ORDER TO SUPPORT SOMALI EFFORTS AT MAINTAINING ADEQUATE DEFENSE, SADAT SENDING GENERAL GAMASY TO SOMALIA TO SEE WHAT EGYPTIANS COULD DO TO REPAIR TANKS, PLANES, ETC., OF SOMALIAN ARMED FORCES. HE DID AGREE HOWEVER THAT PERHAPS A LARGE U.S.-SAUDI CORP OF ENGINEER COMMITMENT TO BARRE COULD STABILIZE THE GOVERNMENT*

9. MR. LEGGETT NOTED PRESIDENT SIAD CONTINUED BELLIGERENT PRONOUNCEMENTS ON SUPPORT TO OGADEN INSURGENTS MADE U.S. SUPPORT MORE DIFFICULT. SADAT SAID U.S. MUST BE UNDERSTANDING AND RECOGNIZE SIAD'S NEEDS TO MAINTAIN "DIGNITY" WITHIN SOMALIA. HE SAID U.S. SHOULD FIND WAYS TO PROVIDE CONFIDENTIAL

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ARMS TO SOMALIA IF NECESSARY THROUGH THE AUSPICES OF SAUDIA ARABIA. THIS ASSISTANCE WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST KENYA, THE OGADEN OR DJIBOUTI BUT FOR SOMALI SELF DEFENSE.

10. SADAT URGED U.S. TO REASSESS ITS ARMS POLICY TO AFRICA URGENTLY BECAUSE "YOU ARE LOSING PRECIOUS TIME". PRESIDENT D'ESTAING OF FRANCE HAD HANDLED CHAD SITUATION WITH "REAL GUTS". BOTH CONGRESSMEN REFERRED TO DIFFICULT CLIMATE IN CONGRESS AT PRESENT ON ARMS ASSISTANCE AND MR. DUNCAN REFERRED TO UPCOMING BATTLE IN HOUSE OVER ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY. MR. LEGGETT ADDED THAT U.S. SHOULD HAVE A POLICY OF ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA BUT IT MUST BE PUT TOGETHER WITH "SUBTLETY". ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE COULD BE PROVIDED AND PERHAPS SOME LIMITED MILITARY ASSISTANCE AS WELL. HOWEVER, LEGGETT SAID SIAD SHOULD FORGET ABOUT OGADEN FOR THE PRESENT. SADAT AGREED SAYING "TALK TO HIM (SIAD) HE WILL UNDERSTAND". SADAT WENT ON TO SAY THAT EGYPT, TOO, HAD TO CONCERN ITSELF WITH SELF-DEFENSE. AFTER ERITREA, HE SAID, SUDAN WILL BE NEXT AND EGYPT CONSIDERS SUDAN'S BORDERS AS HER OWN BECAUSE OF NILE'S CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO EGYPT.

11. TURNING TO RUSSIANS, SADAT SAID THEIR EFFORTS WERE CONTINUING IN AREA TO CREATE INSTABILITY. HE SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO STIR UP TROUBLE IN EGYPT BUT "I WILL NOT GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY". HE AGAIN REITERATED NEED FOR U.S. TO REASSESS ITS POLICY VIS-A-VIS SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFRICA IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM MR. DUNCAN ABOUT EVENTS IN IRAQ, SADAT SAID THAT WHILE A NUMBER OF ANTI-SOVIET STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN DURING PAST YEAR, RUSSIANS STILL HAD STRONG INFLUENCE THERE, BUT NOT AS STRONG AS IN SOUTH YEMEN AND LIBYA.

12. CODEL HAS CLEARED THIS MESSAGE. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PEPR, OREP, EG, (SADAT, ANWAR), (LEGGETT, ROBERT L)
To: STATE TEL AVIV
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